

Dear Sir

Sept 2 - 1778

I was much surprized to right upon receiving a Letter from you, in which you say you have not heard from Home since June; I have wrote many Letters to you since that time, & have sent 4 or 5 from your friends all under cover to my self to you, what can have become of them I know not, unless some of them being directed to your Down travelled that way & have been lost, Do not think unkindly of us, for I assure you many Letters have been sent since that time, I saw your Mamma last week she is very anxious for your Health & deliverd with my own hand the Letter to your Sister, you mention coming home in October your Mamma & Sister are very desirous of seeing you, but say they would not have you return, unless you mean to quit your place, you know your own Situation best, and whether it is worth your while to tarry longer, you may be assur'd of a hearty welcome from your correspondent, tho I shall regret the loss of my intelligencer - you will hear no doubt before this reaches ^{you} of our unhappy ^{navy} ~~failure~~ in the Rhode Island expedition, and yet no one to be blamed that I know of either for want of courage or conduct, but the Hand of providence was against us, the terrible Storm I mentioned to you in my last so impair'd & shattered the Counts Fleet that he was under a necessity of coming into Boston to refit, in consequence of which the enemy took the advantage of it, and attack'd our Army, a pretty smart engagement ensu'd, in which we lost tis said a hundred men kill'd & a 100 ~~or~~ wounded, but did not lose ground, drove the enemy back to their entrenchments, their loss have not heard - By orders since from General Washington the Island is quitt'd & every thing brought off with out molestation, the reason for leaving it is that Howe had sent his Fleet that course, and now finding the Island evacuated they are hovering about this coast to sail of them, poor Boston is again distress'd, and I own my spirits not a little agitated tis now past eleven o'clock, & as I sit writing to you I hear the alarm guns fired; the Count has this day order'd ~~and~~ his men to entrench upon Georges Island, guns are carrying to war - to meet, what ships he has fit for an engagement are drawn

up in order of Battle, but his own ^{is} disabled more than any
other, the seat of war appears to be drawing into this
quarter again, should they attempt landing here, which
I can scarcely believe they will I hope meet with distinction
but they come upon us rather unexpectedly, and would greatly
disturb us, more guns - I believe I shall not sleep very soundly
to night,

you inquire after my Dearest Friend, & Sir
I know not how to curb my impatience, only twice have I heard
of those letters dated in April, & with a thousand times I had gone
with him, we have not had a vessel from France since July
when I heard, by Sir James Gay - I think it very strange
indeed and apprehend they must have been taken, —

I would be more particular
but the news paper will tell you all the News - we are
very dry here, our crops are very much cut off, and this Fleet
raises the price of every article which before exceeded in Lawfull
money what they used to be in old times - I cannot say I shall
come to the Town for a support, for I think I ought to come
to the continent, - some where or other I must find it,
what signifies what one was once possessed of. when a hundred
pounds Lawfull Money, is reduced to ~~one~~ thirteen pounds six
s & pence, I cannot write you an article save House Rent
but what exceeds and equals that difference, —

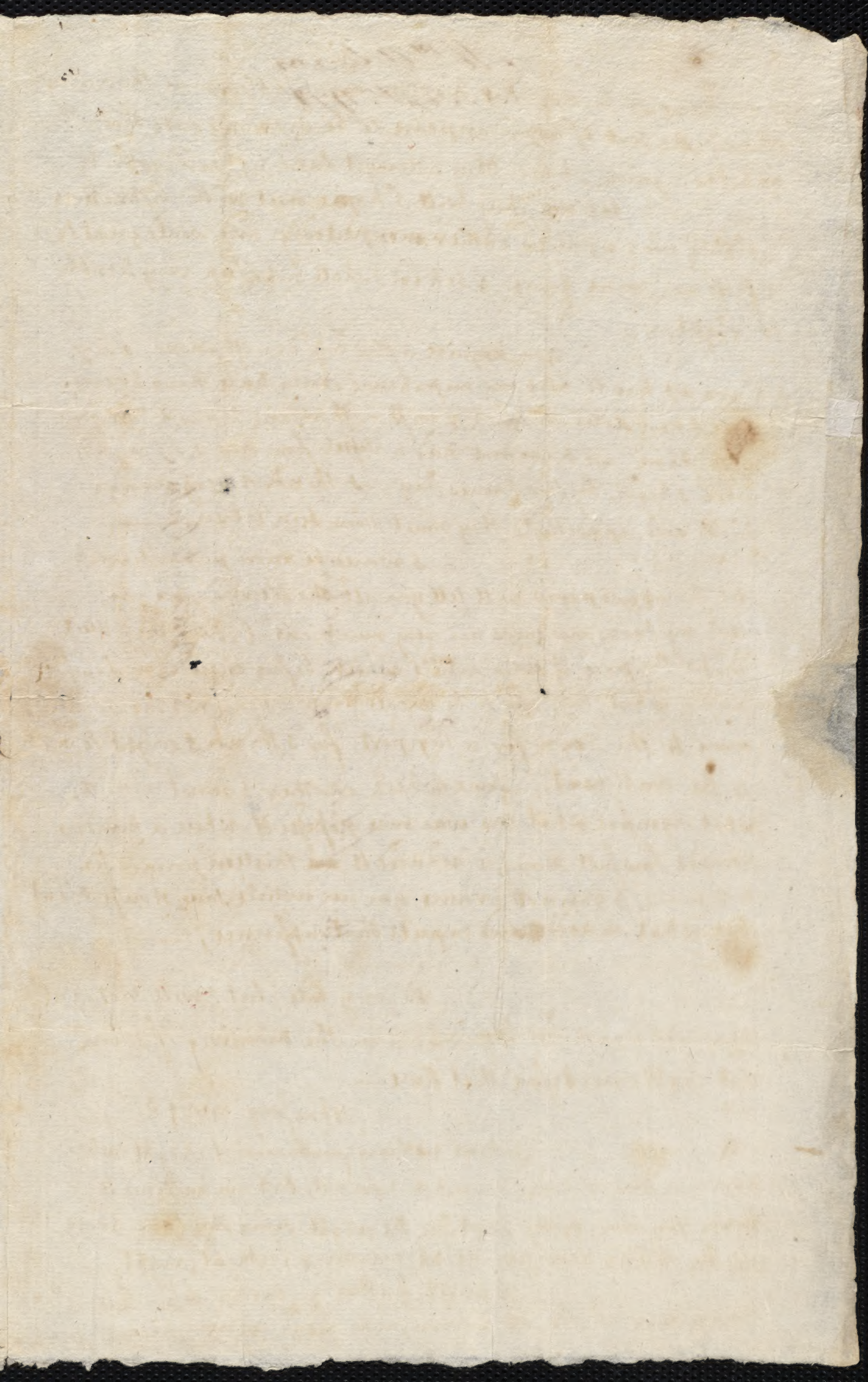
its very late, but I will not seal
to night I will add a few lines in the morning if I am
not captivated before that time —

Thursday morning 3.

I heard nothing further last night, what
rumours they had in Town I know not, but am inclined to
think they were pretty great, as the night before the bells rung
and the Militia were paraded at eleven o'clock at night,

RV 572(1)

I must hasten & close or lose this
conveyance. excuse all inaccuracies from your Friend North



Mr Adams

2. Sept. 1778

To

Thaxter

Mr. John

Philadelphia